Section 4. Complex and Diverse Regional Conflicts

Complex and diverse regional conflicts are emerging around the world. The characteristics of regional conflicts differ from one to another, whether they be inter-state or intra-state conflicts. They may result from various ethnic, religious, territorial, or resource-related issues, and may range in form from armed conflict to sustained armed confrontation. Besides, it is often seen that human rights violations, refugees, famine, poverty, and terrorism resulting from the conflicts become international issues. For that reason, it has become increasingly important for the international community to examine the character of complex and diverse conflicts and to determine appropriate responses, including the form of international frameworks and the way of international involvement depending on the character of conflicts. (See Fig. I-1-4-1)

![Main Areas of Conflict and Dispute](image)

The Middle East has witnessed four wars between Israel and Palestinians or Arab states since the foundation of Israel in 1948. Israel concluded peace treaties with Egypt in 1979 and with Jordan in 1994; however, has yet to realize peace with other states.

The Oslo Agreement concluded in 1993 marked the beginning of a peace process through comprehensive negotiations; however, the Israelis and Palestinians subsequently suspended negotiations due to the intifada that started in 2000 and resulted in reciprocal violence between the two parties. In 2003, agreement was reached between the Israelis and Palestinians on a “Road Map” that laid out a course leading to the establishment of a Middle East peace initiative between the Israelis and the Palestinians based on the principle of the peaceful coexistence between the two nations. However, the Road Map has yet to be implemented. The Israelis will not compromise on ensuring their own security and have demanded that the Palestinians disband terrorist groups. Furthermore, the Israeli government has taken a stern approach toward the Palestinians, stating that in the event that they do not make appropriate responses, the government will no longer regard the Palestinians as a dialogue partner and will unilaterally build a barrier and draw de facto borders. On the Palestinian side, the Islamic
fundamentalist organization Hamas, which does not recognize Israel and which advocates a continuation of armed conflict against Israel, won the Palestine Legislative Council election in January 2006 and established a Hamas-led administration in March. Political turmoil continues as the rivalry between Fatah, the largest faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and Hamas has intensified, and as clashes among Palestinians have led to an increasing number of deaths. In June 2007, President Mahmoud Abbas declared a state of emergency for the entire autonomous region after Hamas seized the Gaza Strip. Thereupon, an emergency cabinet constructed of non-Hamas ministers was established; however, the Hamas *de facto* rule of Gaza continues.

The United States hosted the Annapolis Conference in November 2007, where agreement was reached between Israel and the PLO to commence dialogue towards the conclusion of a peace treaty within this year. However, both Israel and the PLO continue to engage in behavior that could negatively impact the peace process, such as rocket attacks by Palestinian insurgents in Gaza targeting Israeli territory, military campaigns by the Israeli army in response to those attacks and the Israeli Government’s announcement of a plan to build houses in the settlements.

Israel has yet to sign peace treaties with Syria and Lebanon. Israel and Syria disagree on the return of the Golan Heights which Israel has occupied since the 1967 Arab-Israel War. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) is deployed in the Golan Heights region to observe the implementation of ceasefire and military disengagement between the two nations.

Concerning Israel and Lebanon, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) increased its presence following the 2006 clash between Israel and Hezbollah, a Shiite Muslim organization. There have not been any prominent conflicts since, however political instability has continued in Lebanon, such as in the inability to elect a president—a situation that began in November 2007 and has lasted to May of this year. Furthermore, there have been indications that Hezbollah is enhancing its military strength again.

India and Pakistan separated and gained their independence after World War II. Thereafter, large-scale armed conflicts have broken out three times between the two countries over the Kashmir dispute and other issues. Nevertheless, a certain degree of progress regarding bilateral relations has been made in recent years.

On the Korean Peninsula, there are currently tense confrontations between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and North Korea across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), with a presence of approximately 1.5 million ground forces. This military confrontation has been ongoing since the Korean War (1950-1953) armistice. (See Chapter 2, Section 2)

In Nepal, armed conflict with the Maoist faction of the Nepal Communist Party has resulted in a significant number of casualties since 1996. As a result of the pro-democracy movement, a new government was formed in April 2006, and a Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in November between the Nepalese Government and the Maoists. In response to this agreement, the United Nations Political Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) has been deployed in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1740, and among its duties are to monitor the status of weapons and soldiers.

In Africa, numerous civil wars have erupted after the achievement of independence in various nations. Although there have been some pushes for national reconstruction efforts in recent years, some nations are still suffering from severe conflicts.

In Sudan, the Sudanese Government, which is predominantly composed of Muslim Arabs from northern Sudan and anti-government forces comprised of African Christians from southern Sudan demanding autonomy, distribution of revenue from oil, and religious freedom, continued a 20-year north-south civil war that stemmed from a 1983 declaration by the Government to apply Islamic law to all of Sudan. In response to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that was signed between the north and south in 2005, the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), established by Resolution 1590 of the United Nations Security Council, has been deployed and is conducting truce monitoring activities to assist the implementation of the CPA.
In the Darfur region of western Sudan, in addition to the traditional opposition between the Arabic nomadic tribes and the settled African population, disputes over local autonomy and developmental disparities, led to intensified fighting in 2003 between the Arab government and the African anti-government forces (both Muslim). The conflict in Darfur has produced a large number of internally displaced persons and an outflow of refugees into neighboring nations, which the international community, including the United Nations, regards as a serious humanitarian crisis. Following the ceasefire agreement in 2004, the African Union (AU) dispatched the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS); however, their efforts to halt the conflict were unsuccessful. For this reason, after the government and a fraction of the major anti-government forces signed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) in May 2006, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 1769 in July 2007, which stipulated the creation of the AU/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). However, instability in the Darfur region continues as some of the anti-government forces refuse to sign the DPA and as the deployment of UNAMID units has been delayed.

As to Chad and Central Africa, which have seen an outflow of refugees from the Darfur region, the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1778 adopted in September 2007 authorized the deployment of the European Union (EU) forces and the creation of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). Although the deployment of EU forces and others is currently underway in Chad, activities by insurgents also continue. For example, insurgency forces invaded N’Djamena, the capital of Chad, to battle the government forces.

Somalia had been in a state of anarchy since 1991, but in June 2005, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) established in Kenya returned to Somalia. Fighting intensified from 2006 between the TFG and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), an Islamic fundamentalist organization. The TFG forces along with the Ethiopian forces deployed in Somalia at the request of the TFG, brought order to the south central area including the capital of Mogadishu in January 2007. In the same month, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was established. Although armed attacks against the TFG and Ethiopian forces continued, the peace agreement was signed between the TFG and Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia (ARS) which was formed by UIC and other groups, this June in Djibouti, on condition of the dispatch of U.N. peacekeeping operation within 120 days and the withdrawal of the Ethiopian forces. However, the situation remains fragile, as piracy and armed robbery acts occurring in the surrounding waters of Somalia exacerbate the country’s situation[37], making it difficult to predict.
The Impact of Climate Change on the Security Environment

In November 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations announced a report claiming that warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level.

Against a background of increasing interest in climate change caused by global warming, a movement to consider the impact of climate change on security has become pervasive. In April 2007, a panel discussion on the impact of climate change on security was held at the U.N. Security Council, in which 55 nations including non-Council member states participated, representing the above-mentioned movement. In addition, at the EU Summit in March 2008, a report proposing enhancement of crisis management capabilities including military to contribute to the response to the security risks posed by climate change was submitted and placed on the agenda. Furthermore, climate change was raised as a potential security threat in the British National Security Strategy published in March 2008.

As pointed out in these discussions and documents, climate change is believed to have a wide range of impacts on the security environment.

For example, the lack of water, food, and land caused by rising sea level and increasing extraordinary weather, combined with population growth, is believed to trigger large-scale migrations, thereby inciting and worsening ethnic and religious antagonisms and resource-related conflicts. The Darfur crisis may be attributed to the migration of Arabic nomads facing serious droughts and land scarcity caused by climate change into the neighborhoods where black inhabitants follow the plow.

In addition, increasing extraordinary weather is believed to increase large-scale disasters. Accordingly, each country’s military is expected to have more opportunities to be dispatched for such duties as rescue operations, humanitarian and reconstruction assistance operations, and security duties. The U.S. has pointed out the importance of military support as its own lessons learned from dealing with Hurricane Katrina in August 2005.

Furthermore, as melting of sea ice in the Arctic Sea can lead to easier access to undersea resources, coastal nations, trying to ensure ocean interests, begin to embark on seafloor investigations to claim extension of continental shelves and enhance military posture in the Arctic areas.

Thus, the perception that climate change can affect the security environment in various ways has been increasingly shared. It is important for Japan to pay attention to the impact of climate change on the security environment.
Notes:

1) The U.S. “National Intelligence Estimate” (July 2007), and the “2008 Annual Threat Assessment” of the Director for National Intelligence (February 2008), point out that the leaders of Al Qaeda are being harbored in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of the Pakistan border region.

2) Three of the four suicide bombers were sons of Pakistani immigrants and the fourth was born in Jamaica; all were British nationals.

3) Under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1386 (December 20, 2001), the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was established with the principal mission of maintaining security in Kabul and surrounding areas. U.N. Security Council Resolution 1510 (October 13, 2003) gradually expanded the area of deployment from December 2003. In October 2006 it covered the entire territory of Afghanistan. As of April 2008, approximately 47,000 troops from 40 countries have been dispatched to the ISAF.

4) The Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Declaration adopted on the occasion of the official visit to Pakistan of President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan on December 26, 2007.


8) Testimony to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on June 6, 2007, by Assistant Secretary of State Welch.

9) For instance, in October 2002, terrorist bomb attacks in two clubs on the island of Bali killed 202 people. In October 2005, terrorist bomb attacks against restaurants and other locations on the island of Bali killed 23 people.

10) The United States, the former Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France and China. France and China signed the NPT in 1992.

11) Article 6 of the NPT sets out the obligation of signatory countries to negotiate nuclear disarmament in good faith.

12) South Africa, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus.

13) Israel, India and Pakistan are non-members.

14) A means of attacking a country’s most vulnerable points other than by conventional weapons of war. (e.g. weapons of mass destruction, ballistic missiles, terrorist attacks, cyber attacks, etc.)


16) Mustard gas is a slow-acting erosion agent. Tabun and sarin are fast-acting nerve agents.

17) It was reported that a Kurdish village was attacked with chemical weapons in 1988, killing several thousand people.

18) When this weapon is launched or exploded, two kinds of chemical agents are mixed, generating a lethal chemical agent. The handling and storage of this weapon is easy because its lethality is low before being used.

19) In the July 2006 conflict between Israel and Lebanon, it is believed that Hezbollah used an anti-ship missile to attack an Israeli naval vessel.


21) Dirty bombs are intended to cause radioactive contamination by spreading radioactive substances.

22) J. Michael McConnell, Director of National Intelligence of the U.S., stated at the Senate Armed Services Committee in February 2008 that, “The IC (Intelligence Community) continues to assess that North Korea has pursued a uranium enrichment capability at least in the past, and judges with at least moderate confidence that the effort continues today.”
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23) Statement made by U.S. White House Press Secretary Dana Perrino (April 24, 2008).
24) In May 2004, a man regarded as the right hand of Dr. A. Q. Khan from the same network was arrested in Malaysia.
26) James A. Kelly, then U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said before the Hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in March 2000: “There are no longer any military dealings between North Korea and Pakistan. However, that was obviously not the case in the past… Iran had some kind of cooperative relationship [with North Korea] in military affairs.” “What I can say publicly is limited,” he added.
27) Testimony of then Director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency George J. Tenet before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (February 24, 2004).
28) Accusation made by the Deputy Chairman of Ukraine’s Parliamentary Committee on Combating Organized Crime and Corruption (February 2, 2005).
29) It is said that the uranium enrichment level for nuclear power generation is 3.5 to 5.0 percent, and for nuclear weapons is 90 percent or more.
30) This urged Iran to abandon its enrichment-related reprocessing in exchange for assistance in a civilian-use nuclear power program that would guarantee a fuel supply for light-water, assistance in the export of civilian aircraft to Iran and parts, and support for Iran’s admission to the World Trade Organization (WTO), etc.
31) This resolution blocks the supply, sale or transfer to Iran of materials and technology that could contribute to Iran’s enrichment, reprocessing, or heavy water-related activities and freezes financial assets of persons or entities supporting its proliferation sensitive nuclear activities or the development of nuclear activities or the development of nuclear-weapons delivery systems.
32) In addition to the above measures, this resolution freezes assets of additional persons or entities, bans procurement of weapons and related items from materials by Iran, and monitors/restricts the supply, sale or transfer of tanks, fighter aircraft, missiles and other such armaments to Iran.
33) In addition to the above measures, this resolution freezes assets of additional persons or entities and bans the entry of designated individuals into U.N. member states, for their involvement in Iran’s proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities.
36) Vice President Hashimi of Iraq stated in a press conference on March 18, 2008, that if U.S. forces were to withdraw, it would result in the security situation being left in a vacuum, which would lead to a further deterioration in security.
37) United Nations Security Council Resolution 1816 determines that incidents of piracy and armed robbery in the territorial waters of Somalia and the high seas off the coast of Somalia exacerbate the situation in Somalia, and, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Council decided that States cooperating with Somalia’s Transitional Federal Government may take all necessary means to repress acts of piracy and armed robbery within the territorial waters of Somalia.